

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Largest Circulation of any Paper in the South Atlantic States.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

RALEIGH, N. C., DECEMBER 17, 1895.

No. 45

NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—J. F. Willetts, Topeka, Kan.
President—H. C. Snively, Lebanon, Pa.
Secretary-Treasurer—Col. D. P. Dunlap, Columbia, S. C.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.
L. Loucks, Huron, S. D.; Mann Brandon, Virginia; I. E. Dean, New York; H. C. Deming, Pennsylvania; Marion Butler, Raleigh, N. C.

JUDICIARY.
Southworth, Denver, Colo.
V. Beck, Alabama.
D. Davie, Kentucky.

CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

President—Dr. Cyrus Thompson, W. C.
President—Jno. Graham, Ridge, N. C.
Secretary-Treasurer—W. S. Barnes, N. C.
Treasurer—J. T. B. Hoover, Elm City, N. C.

ward—Dr. V. N. Seawell, Villa, N. C.
Chairman—Rev. P. H. Massey, Durham, N. C.
Door-keeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro, N. C.
Assistant Door-keeper—Jas. E. Lyon, N. C.
Agent-at-Arms—A. D. K. Wallace, W. C.
Business Agent—T. Ivey, Raleigh, N. C.
Business Agency Fund—W. W. Ham, Machpelah, N. C.

COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.
F. Hileman, Concord, N. C.; N. English, Trinity, N. C.; James M. Dorne, Kins on, N. C.

ALLIANCE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.
W. Brady, Gateville, N. C.; Dr. Harrell, Whiteville, N. C.; T. J. Miller, Acton, N. C.

Carolina Reform Press Association.

Editors—J. L. Ramsey, President; Marion Butler, Vice-President; W. S. Massey, Secretary.

PAPERS.
The Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Southern Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.
The Hickory, N. C.
The Whittakers, N. C.
The Beaver Dam, N. C.
The Lumberton, N. C.
The Charlotte, N. C.
The Concord, N. C.
The Wadesboro, N. C.
The Salisbury, N. C.
The Sa Watchman.

AGRICULTURE.

The crop of peanuts throughout the country appears to be short. It is likely the price will go higher.

Give the seed potatoes exposed, as has possible, to light and air, to see the liability of sprouting to the sun. They may turn green but will not hurt them for seed.

Twenty years ago the Concord grape originated by Ephraim W. Bull, recently died. The Concord was developed from a wild grape, and it is not enough grape for anybody.

Have you been keeping an account of income and expenditure of the year? If so, now is the time for you to balance up your books and see what has been the result of your labors.

It is better practice to prune the trees in the spring time when the buds are well started; the wounds heal more quickly and effectually. The extremes of winter weather are especially exhaustive to the tree without having any superfluous demands upon its vital forces.

As a health measure, where large numbers of fowls are compelled to live on a limited inclosure, air staked should be liberally used. Let it be scattered late in the evening after the chickens have gone to roost. It greatly counteracts the decomposition of matter which is so deleterious.

The St. Louis paper thinks that the crop has been over-estimated to the extent of 600,000,000 bushels. That is a pretty high figure, but that the crop has been over-estimated we do not doubt. Crop reports are nearly always exaggerated to keep prices down. The potato crop is also over-estimated, in judgment.

There are few farms upon which it would pay to do more draining than is now done, and to do it in a much more effective manner than is usually the case. Very much even of the best and oldest land would be improved if drained, whilst much land not producing crops at all, or producing very small crops, could, by this means, be made to yield heavy crops.

BEE CULTURE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Bee culture is an industry which has been greatly neglected in North Carolina. It cannot be traced to any want of attention, but results rather from an inadequate knowledge of the habits of the bee. One of the principal causes lies in the defective construction of the hives. If the hive is not constructed so as to give the apiarian a correct knowledge of all that pertains to the life, habits and instincts of the bee, he will certainly make many failures, and the result of this lack of knowledge has caused many to abandon entirely the pursuit of bee culture. The common bee-keeper may have many stocks of bees and may know that there is a queen, workers and drones, but the functions of each class and the relations which exist between them are matters of conjecture with him.

If the means were properly directed for the labors of a colony, and the operations systematically carried out to secure the desired end, there would not be the lack of success so often met with.

After a swarm has been secured and placed on its stand and the bees allowed to prosecute their labors their success depends largely on the proper management, and the knowledge of this management is within the reach of all who wish to acquire it. Bee culture need no longer be regarded as a precarious pursuit, but one regulated by system, which can be successfully prosecuted in North Carolina. It requires but a small amount of capital and exacts but very little time, which can be rendered in leisure hours.

The apiarian should at the outset procure a series of movable frame hives to enable him to have perfect control of his bees. The Langstroth hive is one of the very best. He should thoroughly familiarize himself with the best practices of bee culture. In the first place he should set about transferring his bees into movable frame hives from the ordinary box hives. This can be done about noon in the working season when a large number of bees are out foraging. If he does not wish to make the transfer, he can have his swarms introduced into movable frame hives. If the bee-keeper expects to accomplish the best results he must adopt some system of movable comb hives; he is then in a position to give his bees all the attention they may require. After completing these preparations he will be in position to prosecute the work more satisfactorily.

The opinion prevails that bees live to a good old age, but such is not the case. This is verified by removing the black queen from a stock of black bees and giving them a fertile Italian queen, which will commence laying eggs, and in twenty-one days young Italian bees will commence hatching; and in the working season when honey is plentiful, and the young do the building of comb and the nursing of the brood, the old bees do all the foraging, and from incessant labors die, and in about three months no black bees will be found in the stock. By this means anyone can be convinced of the short life of the bee; that is, in the working season; but if an Italian queen is given to a stock in the fall some of the black bees will be found in the hive the next spring, the reason being that they do not forage after the honey season is over in the fall, or before spring opens.—J. W. Hunter, N. C. Experiment Station.

If the aim is to increase the stock of humus in the soil, the quick and sure way is to grow crops for the purpose and return them direct to the ground. The distribution will be far more perfect than when the crop is harvested and fed and the manure returned. One adds nothing to the manurial value of a plant by feeding it to stock, but much is lost.

CARE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS.

It is deplorable to notice the glare of waste that is seen everywhere as one passes through the country. Careless farmers leave their mowers, binders, plows and other implements out in the fields to take the weather unprotected. The bright steel and ornamental mountings of the handsomest, in one winter of exposure, will have become red with rust and decay will have begun. It is difficult to compute the amount of loss caused by the want of care of farm implements. Many a chattel and real estate mortgage has been brought about by this inexcusable waste. Every farmer cannot afford a finely-constructed storehouse for his machinery, but anyone can build, with little time and expense, a lean-to shed of cheap

boards; or a shelter made of a few poles and a roof of straw is better than nothing and will protect the machinery from the extreme vicissitudes of the weather. Mending a farm implement will prolong its period of usefulness. Nothing wears on machinery faster than loose bolts that should be tight and dry joints that should be oiled. Close attention to little matters of this kind often makes the difference between success and failure in farming. Wagons, plows and harrows will look better and last longer if painted occasionally. The winter season is generally the best for such work, as time is then of less importance than during the growing season. Every farmer should be the possessor of a good grindstone and a set of good files. During the dull winter days is the time to repair and sharpen farm tools. It is a saving of time to have a full set of good and well sharpened tools to work with.—M. B. Keech, Winneshiek Co., Ia.

Is the ice house ready for the crop? If not, let it be at once cleaned out and repaired. If no ice house is already built or ice pit excavated, make an effort to have one made in time for this winter's crop. The advantage of having ice during the summer is great, indeed on the dairy farm it is almost a necessity. A house can be built at very small cost if the lumber is on the farm. Build it with double walls, say a foot apart, and pack this hollow tight with sawdust, and let the roof also be double and similarly packed, and you can take care of all the ice you can store in the house.

HORTICULTURE.

A NEGLECTED SMALL FRUIT.

"Gooseberries are as good as grapes," said an old Scotch gardener. Why, then, are they not more generally cultivated? As a rule they are discarded, and efforts made to popularize them in this country have been failures. English large sorts mildew and American varieties are too small. Yet the smallest of gooseberries would be excessively large were they currants and as respectable as grapes.

About 50 years ago, a seedling named Houghton, from a wild American variety, was produced in Salem, Mass. A few years later, Charles Downing produced a new variety of larger size, which bore his name. After the introduction of the Downing's, no effort seemed to be made to improve the gooseberry family, until the imported English variety called Industry was sent out by a New York house. This variety is apparently not at home in this climate and lacks vigor. While productive in the north of England, it is said to be unproductive in the South. A variety called the Triumph was disseminated by a Pennsylvania nursery ten years ago, but its high cost has prevented its general planting. Another sort called Columbia appears to be identical with the Triumph.

The Chautauqua, illustrated in Farm and Home at the time disseminated, has been found to mildew badly. When the Red Jacket, of which a reproduction embellishes our column, was placed on the market, I secured 50 plants and have found them to be vigorous and healthy and without a trace of mildew the past two seasons. This variety, by its vigorous habit of growth and large fruit, confirms my belief at this writing that it is the most promising variety yet offered to the public, the fruit being as large as medium-sized plums. I have found it most profitable to plant gooseberries in the autumn, thin out and out back two-thirds of the tops. High culture, free pruning annually and mulching long and greatly add to their productivity. Size and quality by giving them a constant succession of strong shoots.—J. W. Adams, Hampden Co., Mass.

Complaint is made in many quarters that the catch of timothy, even when a good one, does not hold on the land as it used to do. The truth is that timothy grass is an exhaustive crop, fully as much so as are the grains, especially if the latter are seeded with clover whenever grown. Timothy roots feed chiefly near the surface, and the plant having a narrow leaf gets little from the atmosphere. The only advantage that the timothy crop has over wheat with regard to soil fertility is that the timothy sod protects the surface soil in winter, and it has also a greater root growth when it is plowed under.

Don't leave Irish potatoes exposed to the sun, advises a successful truck gardener.

THE DAIRY.

SELECTING A PORTABLE CREAMERY.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The selection of a portable creamery frequently gives the intended purchaser not a little trouble. This is many times made worse by the extravagant claims of manufacturers as set forth in their printed matter.

THE FIRST QUESTION.

The first question to be settled by the one intending to purchase is, what constitutes a good portable creamery. I will assume at the start that the would-be purchaser is looking for one in which to practice the cold, deep setting or Swedish method of cream raising. This, as nearly every portable creamery on the market, is designed for that practice.

PERPLEXING.

To one who has never given the matter much attention, the question raised may be a hard one to decide. To those who have been reading the circulars of various manufacturers it may be a still harder question; this, unless certain bottom principles relating to cream raising by the cold, deep setting or Swedish method are fully understood.

ABSURD CLAIMS.

It seems to be the plan of some manufacturers of cream-raising apparatus to make foolish claims of controlling certain imaginary processes in connection with the apparatus they make. First, they evolve a theory, or pretend to discover a process. Second, they invent, or claim to invent, an apparatus. Third, they labor to convince the public that it is only by the use of their apparatus, and this practice of their process, that all the cream can be obtained. Hence, it will be observed, that if their claims are correct their process must be used, and it cannot be used without their apparatus.

SELLING THEORIES.

It will readily be seen that if one who is thinking of purchasing a creamery can be led to believe that a certain process of cream raising is the only correct one, and that it can only be practiced by a certain apparatus, it will readily be seen, I repeat, that such a person would be quite apt to purchase that kind of apparatus. Such a person does not stop to compare the general construction, material, workmanship, convenience and economics, of that creamery with the same features in other creameries; no, not by any means. For with his belief regarding the certain peculiar theory of cream raising, and on which he has pinned his faith, all other advantages are slight, comparatively. The fact is that in that case the maker is selling theories. Now, as anyone knows, there is a better profit on theories than on materials improved by labor and combined for a specific purpose by skill and intelligence. Therefore, the man who sells theories is the man who makes the money. A manufacturer who honors his profession will sell his wares on their merit instead of palming them off in the manner above referred to.

Clinton, Iowa.

TO MAKE FINE-FLAVORED BUTTER IN WINTER.

Why is it that we encounter more poor butter flavor in winter than in summer? While the natural conditions for producing good flavor are not as perfect now as then, yet these adverse conditions can be easily overcome by the exercise of average foresight. As regards the correction of this evil, we should remember that the cream possesses the flavor of the milk from which it is derived, and that the butter made from the cream retains the flavor of the latter. Therefore we must go back to the beginning and start the milk quality all right. A bad lactical flavor may be inherent, or acquired. Inherent, when coming from tainted food—as musty hay, hay mixed with weeds, moldy or black ensilage; from the breathing of vitiated stable air by the cows; and from physical ailments affecting the integrity of the udder. Acquired, by filth falling into the milk pail from the teats or udder; warm milk absorbing odors from a tainted stable atmosphere; unclean milk utensils, and the use of a buttry that is a communicating appendage of the farm house kitchen.

From anyone or more of these numerous causes a foreign flavor can be imparted to the milk that nothing will eradicate, the treatment being purely preventive. How easy, then, not to have poor butter flavor from such sources! By merely exercising the caution and care needful to be main

tained in every dairy, the whole danger is obviated. Having considered the means of infection of the raw material, let us turn to the finished material, the butter itself. It stands a less chance of deteriorating in winter than in summer—thanks to the low temperature—but yet it may lose its flavor through a number of channels.

As preventives in this line, the butter must not be overworked; the butter milk must be extracted from it; a reliable and soluble brand of salt, free from foreign mineral matter, must be used; and the product must be put in clean, aseptic packages.

In the majority of cases unclean stable surroundings impregnating the milk, in the cause of damaging winter butter flavor. When you have lost the natural aroma of butter, it is the same as though the diamond had been bereft of its luster—its chief attribute of worth is gone.

I would make every milker wash his hands before sitting down to a cow, and if necessary sponge off the animal's udder and teats. This latter precaution, however, will seldom be needed where plenty of dry bedding is used. I would also give the stable a thorough airing daily, and if this was not sufficient to eradicate odors, I would employ a deodorizer, like plaster, on the floor after cleaning. By these precautions you are not trying to gain anything but what should always be found in butter, namely, natural flavor. Nature attends to these points pretty well in summer time, when cows have the range of clover-scented fields but a wise dairyman can officiate quite well in nature's place if he only tries to. Are you doing it this winter, and thus preserving the most valuable characteristic of your butter?—Geo. E. Newell, in American Agriculturist.

POULTRY YARD.

EGGS ALL THROUGH WINTER.

Do you want eggs the coming winter at the season when they will bring the highest price, and when it costs most to feed the hens?

Perhaps it is easier to tell you how to manage so that your hens will be a bill of expense to you all winter, and will only furnish eggs when the price is lowest. If I were telling how not to care for the hens, I would say, don't bother to build a home for them; it costs money, and hens like to roost in trees any way. And when it grows real cold they will get into the barn and out buildings to roost. Never mind feeding them; they can steal enough from the hogs and horses, and scratch in the manure pile; and when the snow is deep, they can sit on the roost for a day or two without eating. You need not give them water, for if there doesn't happen to be a thaw for a few days, they can eat snow. Haven't you seen them do it many a time?

This is the way my neighbor Bob Jones has managed his chickens for years, and he doesn't have a bit of trouble with them. To be sure he gets no eggs in winter, and even in March last year when his neighbor Tom Smith had, with the same number of hens, been getting from 30 to 50 eggs a day, for many weeks, Bob had to buy what few eggs his wife must have to cook with.

I have described the way Bob's fowls are cared for, except that I did not tell how his plows, binder and mowing machine look, after the hens have roosted on them all winter, and that the top of his buggy often is fertilized, and that you can hear Bob swear often at night when he gets in late with his team, and finds a row of hens on the partition between the stall and manger. It would not look well in print to go into details, so I will leave them to your imagination.

Tom Smith lately spent an evening with me, and we talked on farm matters until bed time, and when he got on poultry he said many wise things of which I took mental note, saying to myself, "I'll tell that to the Country Gentleman readers." In answer to my question, "Do you find poultry profitable?" he said: "Yes, as much or more than any stock kept on the farm. I can feed 100 hens about as cheaply as one cow, and they will give a much larger profit."

"How do you manage them," I asked.

"I divide them into colonies of 50 to 60 each; I have a warm house ten by twenty four feet for each colony; these houses are lined with tarred paper, and have plenty of windows at the south. I have a small yard connected with each house, and about the time our first bad weather comes in November, I assort my hens, clip one wing of each,

and shut them up. I put the old hens in one house and the pullets in another, and I am to sell off each year the oldest hens, so as to have only one and two-year olds on the farm. These hens are fed three times a day, just as regularly as my horses. I feed in long troughs nailed up against the sides of the house, just high enough so that the hens can stand on the floor and eat out of them. It is easier to keep them clean in this way.

"The morning feed is wheat, or when I can buy that which suits me, wheat screenings, which I can usually buy enough cheaper than wheat so I think it pays. The noon feed is always a warm one, either potatoes cooked and mashed, or finely-cut clover hay scalded, and a little shipstuf mixed through it. I find that six quarts of potatoes, mashed fine, with water enough added to make a thin slop of it, then a quart of middlings added, and enough of bran to stiffen it, make a feed for 150 fowls, or a half bushel of cut clover, with two quarts of middlings, makes a full feed for them. The night feed is shelled corn one ounce to a fowl.

In addition to this, I keep ground oyster shells and gravel in each of them all the time, and a dust bath at the end opposite the door, under the sloping floor, which catches the droppings. The main floor of the poultry house is kept covered with leaves, and every day some of the corn and wheat that we feed is scattered here; this keeps the hens busy scratching, and the exercise not only keeps them warm, but makes them lay better."

"What about water?" I asked.

"We aim to keep water by them all the time when it is not so cold as to freeze it, and always in winter give it to them warm, so it will not freeze up so soon, and in the coldest weather we water three times a day."

"What does it cost you to feed your hens in winter?" I asked.

"That depends on the price of grain," answered Smith, "sometimes more and sometimes less. I have laid in my feed for the coming winter at lower prices than usual, and expect to winter 125 fowls, at an average daily cost of less than 20 cents. I bought corn at 25 cents per bushel, screenings at 40 cents per hundred pounds, bran at \$12 per ton, and middlings at \$13.50. I have plenty unmerchanted potatoes and clover hay, and the cost for these will be but two or three cents a day. I shall feed about 8 pounds of corn a day, and the same of bran and middlings, and occasionally I will substitute oil meal for middlings, and I shall feed about 15 pounds of screenings a day. I always expect to feed at a loss in November and December, as we do not get eggs enough usually to pay for the feed, but every other month in the year gives a good profit, and a good part of the time it does not take half the eggs to pay for the feed."

I think my friend Tom Smith has given us a good lesson in the care of poultry, and I have come so near following his plan, that I can confirm his statements, both as to profit and cost of poultry keeping, when managed wisely.—Waldo F. Brown, in Cultivator and Country Gentleman.

LETTER FROM ROWAN.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

SALISBURY, N. C.

Enclosed please find money order to pay up my arrearages. I am ashamed to have let the time lapse, but it was owing to circumstances over which I had no control. I have had the wolf at my door for some time and fear it will not be any better until the laboring man gets his eyes open, but as Capt. Sam Ashe says, may be "King Grover" will not remain where he is always. I saw your offer to receive \$1 in cancellation of all arrearages to date, but I think the laborer worthy of his hire and cannot take advantage of it. I feel that I have been richly rewarded for the full amount due you, and have often felt that I was doing you a great injustice to read the paper without paying you for it.

I see the Charlotte Observer admits at last that prosperity is still on the wane, but says it is on account of the recent State elections. Drowning men will catch at straws. Oh! my country, I yet admit that the Observer some times hits the bull's eye. He says no one who voted for Grover has any right to find fault with him. That's so. He says Grover stands now on silver where he did before he was nominated. I say so too, but many of us who refused to vote for him for that reason got soundly abused for it by the bosses who are now causing Grover. So it goes. It will ever be so with politicians.

Yours truly,
JNO. BEARD.